

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle boarding environment controlling system constituted by a communication device and by a boarding environment controlling apparatus mounted on a vehicle and communicating with said communication device, said boarding environment controlling system comprising:

detecting means included in said communication device for detecting a detection target object for personal authentication;

~~personal authentication processing means for performing a personal authentication process based on said detection target object detected by said detecting means;~~

registration storing means which, in association with personal authentication information and personal ID of each person to be authenticated in said personal authenticating process, stores setting status information denoting a predetermined boarding environment of said vehicle;

personal authentication processing means for performing a personal authentication process based on said detection target objected detected by said detecting means and said personal

authentication information read from said registration storing means;

door lock controlling means included in said boarding environment controlling apparatus for unlocking doors of said vehicle when a person is authenticated by said personal authentication means; and

setting status controlling means included in said boarding environment controlling apparatus and which, if any person is authenticated by said personal authentication processing means, changes a boarding environment setting status of said vehicle in accordance with the setting status information associated with the authenticated person from among the setting status information stored in said registration storing means.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A vehicle boarding environment controlling apparatus comprising:

communicating means for communicating with a communication device that detects a detection target object for personal authentication;

registration storing means for storing setting status information denoting a predetermined boarding environment of a vehicle in association with personal authentication information and personal ID of each person to be authenticated in a personal authentication process performed in accordance with said detection target object detected by said communication

device and said personal authentication information read from said registration storing means;

door lock controlling means for unlocking doors of said vehicle when any person is authenticated in said personal authentication process; and

setting status controlling means which, if any one person is authenticated in said personal authentication process, changes a boarding environment setting status of said vehicle in accordance with the setting status information associated with the authenticated person from among the setting status information stored in said registration storing means.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The vehicle boarding environment controlling apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said setting status controlling means changes, as said boarding environment setting status, a setting status of a mechanism related to a body of said vehicle.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The vehicle boarding environment controlling apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said mechanism related to the body of said vehicle is at least one of an exterior mirror moving mechanism, an interior mirror moving mechanism, and a driver seat position moving mechanism.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The vehicle boarding environment controlling apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said setting status controlling means changes, as said boarding environment setting status, a setting item regarding electronic equipment mounted on said vehicle and which has predetermined functions.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A vehicle boarding environment controlling method for use with a boarding environment controlling system constituted by a communication device and by a boarding environment controlling apparatus mounted on a vehicle and which communicates with said communication device, said boarding environment controlling method comprising the steps of:

detecting a detection target object for personal authentication through said communication device;

~~performing a personal authentication process based on said detection target object detected in said detecting step;~~

storing, into a predetermined storage area, setting status information denoting a predetermined boarding environment of said vehicle in association with personal authentication information and personal ID of each person to be authenticated in said personal authenticating process;

performing a personal authentication process based on said detection target object detected in said detecting step and

said personal authentication information read out from said predetermined storage area;

unlocking doors of said vehicle through said boarding environment controlling apparatus when a person is authenticated in said personal authentication process; and

when any person is authenticated in said personal authentication process, causing said boarding environment controlling apparatus to change the boarding environment setting status of said vehicle in accordance with the setting status information associated with the authenticated person from among the setting status information stored in the storage areas.